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ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Report of the Reconvened Technical Meeting on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People held in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 46/128 and 47/75

(Geneva, 14-16 July 1993)

Chairperson-Rapporteur: Mrs. Ligia Galvis (Colombia)

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE RECONVENED TECHNICAL MEETING

1. In its resolution 46/128 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly decided that the Coordinator of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People should convene, early in 1992, a Technical Meeting of agencies, regional commissions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system with representatives of States, organizations of indigenous peoples and other non-governmental organizations having a special interest in indigenous matters.

2. This meeting was held at Geneva from 9 to 11 March 1992, and reconvened there from 3 to 5 August 1992 (see E/CN.4/1992/AC.4/TM/8 and E/CN.4/1992/AC.4/TM.2/3). This meeting followed the tenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and took advantage of the presence in Geneva of delegates to the Working Group.

3. The International Labour Office, which had been designated by the General Assembly in resolution 46/128 to work in conjunction with the Coordinator in organizing the activities for the Year, assisted the secretariat with both meetings.

4. The second meeting, attended by a greater number of representatives of indigenous organizations and other relevant non-governmental organizations, again called upon all agencies of the United Nations system, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations to make a special effort to contribute fully to the success of the Year.

5. The General Assembly in its resolution 47/75 of 14 December 1992 requested the Coordinator to reconvene the Technical Meeting in the three working days preceding the eleventh session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in order to conclude its deliberations and finalize its report. The reconvened meeting was held at Geneva from 14 to 16 July 1993.

6. It was noted with regret that the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was unable to consider favourably the request to extend assistance to indigenous peoples to attend the meeting.

A. Participation

7. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented at the Meeting: Australia; Bhutan; Bolivia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Denmark; Guatemala; Japan; Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Peru; Russian Federation and Sweden.

8. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission of Australia and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Unit of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission were also represented.

9. The Arab League was represented.

10. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Department of Public Information, United Nations Development

Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

11. The following non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organizations were represented at the Meeting: Aboriginal Law Centre; Alliance for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Peoples Council; Docip; Haudenosaunee; Health for Minorities; Maori Women's Welfare League; National Committee to Defend Black Rights (Aboriginal Corporation, Australia); National Socialist Council of Nagaland; Northern Land Council of Australia; Teton Sioux Nations Treaty Council; Workgroup for Indigenous Peoples (Netherlands).

12. In addition to the above-mentioned participants, a number of individual scholars, experts on human rights and observers attended the meeting.

B. Documentation

13. The following documents were made available to the meeting:

E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/L.1	Provisional agenda
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/1	Note by the secretariat
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/2	Note by the secretariat
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.1	Extracts of conclusions and recommendations as well as suggestions from the first sessions of the Technical Meetings on the International Year, March and August 1992
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.2	Extracts of the conclusions, recommendations and resolutions of the First Summit of Indigenous Peoples, held in B'okob'Iximuleew (Chimaltenango, Guatemala) 24-28 May 1993
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.3	List of projects received seeking funding by the Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.4	Summary of items 4 and 5 by the Chairperson from the first two meetings
E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.5	Extracts of the recommendations of the NGO Forum at the World Conference on Human Rights.

E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.6 — Open letter from the Ah-Kim-Pech Seminar on Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Context of the New Relationships, Campeche, Mexico 3-6 June 1993.

C. Opening of the Meeting

14. The meeting was opened on 14 July 1993 by Mr. John Pace of the Centre for Human Rights, on behalf of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Coordinator of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, Mr. Ibrahima Fall.

15. Mr. Pace reminded delegates of the need to make special efforts to ensure that programmes and activities in the fields of human rights, development and environment, education and culture, health, self-management and self-government and public information were developed during 1993. He encouraged the United Nations system as a whole to explore how it might develop activities which would benefit indigenous peoples, and noted the importance of the informal consultations between indigenous peoples and the United Nations system which took place in New York on 11 December 1992 in this process.

16. The Coordinator was most appreciative of the efforts and support of the International Labour Organisation in facilitating that most important consultation. The ILO would also assist the Centre with another such consultation, on a regional basis, which would take place in Khabarovsk in the Siberia region of Russia in September 1993.

17. The outcome of the reconvened meeting, which would examine progress during the first six months and consider suggestions for the final half of the Year, would be used in the preparation of the final report on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. Also, General Assembly resolution 46/128 invited the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session in 1994 to evaluate the Year; the present meeting would be useful in that process.

18. Mr. Pace reported on the state of the Voluntary Fund which had been established for the International Year. Contributions of approximately US$ 270,000 had been received and a further US$ 260,000 had been pledged. However, to date, the Coordinator had received requests for assistance totalling more than US$ 33 million for both small- and large-scale projects; Governments were therefore encouraged to continue to contribute to the Fund.

19. Mr. Pace acknowledged the generous contributions totalling US$ 350,000 from three Governments for staff and resources for the secretariat for the International Year within the Centre for Human Rights and for a special earmarked project. In fact, over US$ 850,000 had been contributed.

20. Mr. Pace recalled that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, which recommended that a decade for indigenous peoples be proclaimed, to commence in January 1994.

21. Mrs. Ligia Galvis, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Technical Meeting, took the chair. During the course of the session, the Chairperson was able to welcome Mr. Michael Dodson from the Northern Land Council of Australia, one of the two Vice-Chairpersons elected by the indigenous delegates at the second Technical Meeting in August 1993. The second Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Rigoberta Menchu of the International Indian Treaty Council and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was unfortunately unable to be in Geneva for the Meeting.

22. The Chairperson welcomed the delegates and expressed her gratitude to the Coordinator and the secretariat for their support and efforts up to date. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the progress in the first six months of the Year, to assess the current status and to consider the programme for the next six months. The state of the Voluntary Fund would be examined and it was hoped that there would be an opportunity to look at the activities that had taken place around the world and to examine what positive impact the United Nations system, Governments, intergovernmental organizations, development programmes and non-governmental organizations might have had on indigenous concerns.

23. She expressed the hope that as a result of the Year the whole United Nations system, and society in general, would be activated to ensure that the just claims of indigenous peoples would be properly met, and that they would be granted the opportunity to develop in an equitable manner. Mrs. Galvis indicated that she felt that some headway had been made in ensuring that indigenous peoples took their place in the international community.

24. The Year had been marked by some landmarks, such as an opportunity for indigenous peoples to speak at the Commission on Human Rights. The World Conference on Human Rights had afforded another opportunity for indigenous peoples to express their concerns in an international forum. She stressed the importance of the World Conference, and suggested that it might be a focus for the evaluation exercise. The International Year should be seen as only the beginning of a new kind of vision for indigenous peoples. She urged the Meeting to focus on achievements and look at what else needed to be done to bring the Year to a successful conclusion, whilst ensuring that everyone remained motivated to work towards goals which would bring long-term benefit to indigenous peoples.

D. Adoption of the agenda

25. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Consideration of activities implemented during the first half of the International Year.

5. Consideration of project areas and activities for 1993 and thereafter:

(a) Human rights;

(b) Development and environment;

(c) Education and culture;

(d) Health;

(e) Self-management and self-government;

(f) Public information.

6. Financial provisions for 1993 and thereafter.

7. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations.

II. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

26. The Chairperson invited the meeting to consider item 4.

27. The representative of ILO described the activities that had been initiated by that organization during the Year. ILO had not initiated activities specifically for the Year, but had rather intensified its activity in areas already dedicated to the improvement of conditions for indigenous peoples. Greater efforts had been made to spread awareness about ILO Convention No. 169 and to encourage Governments to ratify it. It had now been ratified by five States and three others had authorized its ratification.

28. Seminars, training courses and workshops in various parts of the world, as well as reports by committees of experts on Norway and Mexico, had formed part of ILO's efforts for the Year. The involvement of organizations such as the Inter-American Indian Institute had been important. An important workshop for indigenous peoples had been held in the Philippines in March 1993 to discuss the content of Convention No. 169 and how it could form the basis for defining a strategy for the indigenous peoples of the Philippines. That meeting marked the first time that government bodies and representatives of indigenous organizations had come together to discuss such issues. Two national organizations of indigenous peoples in the Philippines had now set up a coordinating committee to prepare a joint programme of action.

29. ILO recommended such multi-disciplinary approaches, with the cooperation of such bodies as the United Nations Development Fund and the specialized agencies. It was noted that UNDP intended to follow up with further meetings with representatives of Governments and indigenous peoples to discuss the results.

30. ILO also planned a multi-disciplinary mission to Guatemala. This would already have taken place, but had been delayed because of internal problems in that country. However, in August there would be a brief mission to determine a future programme.

31. Work had also been done with the displaced tribal peoples in India, and two specific research projects were under way. A manual on indigenous forms of self-government was being compiled, as were monographs on indigenous peoples' land ownership in Africa and Latin America. It was hoped those studies would assist non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations to work more effectively with indigenous peoples.

32. ILO had worked closely with the Centre for Human Rights in a general effort to coordinate activities for the Year.

33. The representative of the Government of Chile thanked the secretariat and all the organizations that had contributed to the Year for their efforts. It was noteworthy that the General Assembly had recognized the importance of indigenous peoples' contribution to the world and that an effort had been made to increase public awareness. He noted the importance of concrete programmes and a strengthened Voluntary Fund so that it could provide assistance, and urged the Meeting to make clear recommendations about how to achieve the objectives for the Year and the coming Decade.

34. He described some of the activities that had been undertaken by Chile at the national level to celebrate the International Year. These included public awareness programmes and legislative reforms.

35. It was evident that the United Nations system had not been prepared for the Year, and that there was a greater need for coordination. However, indigenous peoples were now taking their place in international forums, as was evidenced by their presence at the General Assembly on 10 December 1992, at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights and the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

36. Chile supported the proclamation of a Decade which would ensure that indigenous peoples' concerns would be addressed over a longer period of time; more could be achieved in such a context than in just one year. It was important that programmes for the Decade should be more substantial. An outline for the Decade should be prepared. The Decade would also provide Governments with an opportunity to demonstrate in concrete terms their commitment to the Vienna Declaration.

37. The representative of the United Nations Department of Public Information provided a brief description of the extensive programme of publications and public awareness products that had been launched for the Year. These included brochures, press kits, posters and videos. A number of television and radio programmes had been prepared by or with the assistance of DPI and links had been established with the media. A full report was provided during the discussion under agenda item 5.

38. The Chairperson remarked on the importance of the dissemination of clear and accurate information about indigenous peoples, as there was a lack of knowledge about them and a general insensitivity to their concerns. DPI should continue to develop information programmes in consultation with indigenous peoples.

39. A comprehensive statement was made by the representative of the Government of Mexico, who called upon the Meeting to listen to indigenous peoples. The evaluation of the Year should focus upon the action plan contained in the Vienna Declaration. Indigenous peoples' presence at the World Conference on Human Rights was extremely significant.

40. The world should be aware that the rights of indigenous peoples, including their cultural rights were still being breached. There was a need to ensure equitable treatment of indigenous peoples in the nations where they lived, and a recognition of how indigenous peoples' cultures enriched nations. Nations should seek to ensure that indigenous peoples were equal before the law. There was a continuing need to fight xenophobia and a need to intensify the ratification and monitoring of international instruments such as Convention No. 169. The draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was not yet completed, and efforts should be made to do that.

41. The representative commended the indigenous peoples' summit in Guatemala in May 1993, commented upon the efforts of UNESCO in Mexico, and encouraged the General Assembly to proclaim the Decade of Indigenous Peoples as sustained efforts were needed to address the problems faced by indigenous peoples. The representative also noted the wide range of national activities launched to mark the Year.

42. The future role and status of the present Working Group on Indigenous Populations was vitally important to indigenous peoples and serious consideration should be given to that matter.

43. The Chairperson thanked the representative of Mexico for his important contribution. She also commented upon the indigenous peoples' summit in Guatemala and drew attention to the Chimaltenango Declaration which provided a number of points for discussion on the Year and the Decade, with a plan for future activities.

44. The representative of the Government of Sweden reported on national activities in that country and the setting up of an authority to coordinate the activities for the Year. A wide range of activities of cultural and intellectual significance had been carried out by Sami communities in Sweden, the Nordic Sami Council and the Nordic Sami Institute.

45. The representative of UNDP reported on its activities for the Year. UNDP had established a focal point, and was taking particular note of the concerns of indigenous peoples in development projects, particularly in the management of natural resources. UNDP had been particularly active for indigenous peoples in Bolivia, the Caribbean region, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. There was a small grants programme for projects of up to US$ 50,000; indigenous groups were advised to approach the agency through its field offices. UNDP was also providing opportunities for training indigenous peoples.

46. UNDP had identified four main areas of concern: the improvement of living standards, health care, economic and technical development, and the preservation of natural resources with emphasis on environmental recovery, utilizing traditional knowledge.

47. The representative of the Government of New Zealand reported on activities in that country during the Year, and noted that it had contributed to the Voluntary Fund. The representative noted that the Government was committed to a partnership with the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, and that that commitment dated back to the Treaty of Waitangi.

48. Some of the many important events that had been organized by Maori peoples to mark the Year were described. Conferences were held concerning sovereignty, indigenous women and spiritual elders and an art and cultural symposium was to be held for artists from the Pacific rim countries. Other activities included a speech competition in schools, youth programmes, media events, projects for women and oral history projects. The Government had provided approximately NZ$ 300,000 for domestic activities. The empowerment of indigenous peoples was seen as a priority, and projects which assisted indigenous peoples to utilize the instruments of the United Nations to protect their rights should be supported fully.

49. On the international level, New Zealand considered that the World Conference on Human Rights had been an important landmark and endorsed the recommendations referring to indigenous peoples. In particular, New Zealand supported the recommendation for a Decade and the Technical Meeting should call upon the General Assembly to proclaim it. The importance of full consultation with indigenous peoples in shaping the Decade was emphasized.

50. New Zealand supported the establishment by all the agencies of the United Nations system of programmes for indigenous peoples. There should be a focus on informing indigenous peoples about how to tap into assistance provided within the United Nations system.

51. The representative of the Government of Canada followed with a comprehensive report on the extensive range of activities generated in that country to mark the Year and spoke of an era of new relationships, a new partnership, between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups. Provincial governments had been asked to focus on the Year, in a national effort to ensure that issues of the Indian and Inuit communities were recognized. Programmes to raise awareness of indigenous peoples and their cultures, to improve relations and to involve indigenous peoples in programmes affecting them had been launched. Posters, stamp issues, educational materials and support for the North American Indigenous Games had marked the Year. An extensive awareness programme, including cultural exchanges, was also taking place through the embassies abroad.

52. Canada endorsed the report of the World Conference on Human Rights and supported the Decade, on the condition that it was beneficial to indigenous peoples.

53. Australia welcomed the Technical Meeting as an opportunity to review the progress of the Year and reiterated Australia's support for the Year. In launching the Year in December 1992, the Prime Minister of Australia had made a significant statement calling upon Australian communities to recognize the historical truth of the settlement of Australia and to extend social justice to fully address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concerns. It was noted that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission had the role of

coordinating Australia's observance of the Year. The Australian Government had been able to achieve a great deal, domestically, without additional or specific funding allocations. This had been achieved by the sensible use of, and in some cases reallocation of, existing resources.

54. Australia welcomed the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, but urged that indigenous peoples be fully involved in the planning for the Decade and in developing the General Assembly resolution. However, there was still a great deal to be done in the next six months. It was vital that proposals already put forward should continue to be promoted and developed during the second half of the Year.

55. The representative of the Government of Sweden reported that the first elections to the Samiting, the Sami Assembly, had been held in May 1993. This was seen as a significant development in Sami affairs in Sweden. The Assembly had an important role to play in the allocation of funds to Sami communities and in the fields of education and culture.

56. Representatives of several indigenous organizations spoke at length on their impressions of the Year, and noted that most activities and projects had been hampered by lack of resources.

57. The fact that the representatives of only a small number of Governments remained in the General Assembly chamber to hear the speeches of the indigenous peoples on 10 December 1992 was noted and censured by a representative of a committee of non-governmental organizations based in New York.

58. All agreed that the proclamation of the Decade would be a very significant event, but that it must be adequately financed. The empowerment of indigenous peoples was the highest priority. Specific programmes for public information and development should be established, and the United Nations system should respond through improved inter-agency cooperation on behalf of indigenous peoples. ILO was commended for its interesting and encouraging efforts in Asia.

59. The lack of statistics on indigenous peoples throughout the world was noted and the importance of collecting accurate data was emphasized. Indigenous representatives from Asia commented that very little was known about them. The difficult circumstances in which they lived made it difficult for their voices to be heard, and they were often quite inaccessible. Conferences such as that held in Bangkok in May 1993, which was attended by 28 indigenous representatives from 11 countries, was very significant for indigenous peoples.

60. Projects such as the trade fair of indigenous products which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/128, but which could not be carried out during the Year, should be carried forward as projects for the Decade. It was noted that many environmental and developmental projects were not always in the best interests of indigenous peoples, and indigenous peoples must always be consulted.

61. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provided details of the activities undertaken by that organization. A set of guidelines had been developed for the use of field officers dealing with indigenous peoples and a consultant was engaged to write a report on indigenous peoples for internal use. UNHCR wished to increase its knowledge of indigenous peoples, so as to be better able to assist them, and would like to encourage indigenous peoples to help present training courses for its staff. UNHCR had created the post of liaison officer for the promotion of human rights; that official was responsible for the coordination of UNHCR's activities with respect to indigenous peoples. UNHCR had also supported an indigenous person from Guatemala to attend the opening ceremonies of the Year at the General Assembly in December 1992.

62. The observer for UNESCO commented on the activities of UNESCO, particularly in support of the development of appropriate teaching materials concerning indigenous peoples. At the International Conference on Education held in September 1992 at Geneva, which had as its theme "Education and cultural development", the educational needs of indigenous and tribal peoples attracted wide interest.

63. UNESCO co-organized in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, an international seminar-workshop to deal with issues of importance to the Maya. In May 1993, UNESCO co-sponsored a seminar on education, work and cultural pluralism in Mexico, and support was extended to the First Summit of Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala, also in May 1993. In June 1993, UNESCO co-organized the seminar "Human rights of indigenous peoples in the context of the new relationships" in Campeche, Mexico. UNESCO was anxious to increase its awareness of indigenous peoples' issues and to enhance the recognition of their cultures with the provision of practical support wherever possible.

64. The representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission of Australia provided a comprehensive report on activities held in that country for the Year. The general impression was that awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia had been raised, and that had been stimulated by the debate on the issue of the recognition of native title. The Government had supported the Year.

65. Indigenous representatives commented on the lack of coordination within the United Nations system and the lack of information about the programmes run by the various United Nations bodies. It was also important to raise awareness of indigenous peoples globally. It was noted that the secretariat had been hampered in its work by inadequate resources. Because of the shortage of resources it had been necessary to limit programmes.

66. The representative of the International Indian Treaty Council spoke of the need for a campaign for the ratification of the Convention No. 169 and the need for regional seminars in Asia and Central America to discuss it.

67. Several indigenous representatives remarked on the World Conference on Human Rights. It was considered that the response of the World Conference to indigenous peoples was disappointing because the final document referred only to "indigenous people", not "indigenous peoples". The general feeling was that progress had been delayed because of the use of this terminology.

However, a positive outcome was the recommendation for the proclamation of a decade devoted to indigenous peoples' issues; this was strongly supported by the indigenous participants.

68. The Chairperson provided a comprehensive summary of the outcomes of the Meeting to that point. She suggested that her summary should be used as a basis for discussion when considering the subjects under item 5.

69. The Chairperson also made some general comments. The first referred to participation. She expressed concern that the Meeting was not well attended by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies and representatives of indigenous peoples. Her concern should be conveyed to all bodies which had been working to implement the International Year. The Technical Meeting was conceived as a focal point for the Year and, as such, should have been well attended. It should, indeed, have been the driving force, and as many delegates as possible should have been involved with the evaluation. The Meeting would be a disappointment to those staff within the United Nations and its agencies who had been committed to making the Year a success, and a disappointment to the entire international community, besides indigenous peoples themselves.

70. The year should be a year for development, as was clearly indicated in resolutions 46/128 and 47/75. The Chairperson therefore suggested that a recommendation of the Meeting could be to renew and strengthen the commitment at operational and practical levels, so that it would be possible to produce a list of activities that could be carried out by agencies.

71. Working for indigenous peoples involved acknowledging their right to their own lives and cultures and that they were part of contemporary life. Indigenous peoples must participate at all levels.

72. The Chair recalled that the governmental delegates had taken the floor and related enthusiastically the many and varied activities that were taking place, or had taken place, to celebrate the Year in their countries. Raising awareness of indigenous peoples and their cultures, and ensuring that the world community understood the problems confronting them, was very important and a great deal of public awareness information had been produced during the Year. However, not much had been done about operational projects. At this evaluation stage, the Meeting should turn its attention to what communities had received in terms of, for example, development and health-related projects.

73. There needed to be a substantial assessment of the work. Had programmes actually reached communities? How exactly had indigenous peoples benefited in the first six months?

74. Another aspect to be examined was the coordination of work by the United Nations bodies. Many had indicated that there was a problem, mainly because of the lack of resources. It would be necessary for the agencies to assess what resources were needed to carry out the work effectively.

75. It could be recommended that over the next six months, the United Nations system should provide more resources and that there should be improved coordination within the system, in an attempt to bring the Year to a successful conclusion.

76. The Chairperson also referred to the political and conceptual issue that was raised at the World Conference on Human Rights, concerning the use of the word "people" as opposed to the word "peoples". It was an issue that required further attention in the international context.

77. The need to proclaim a Decade of Indigenous Peoples had already been written into the Vienna Declaration, and as most delegations accepted that, it would figure in the report on the Year which would be submitted to the General Assembly. There should be some debate on it at the Meeting, with the involvement of all agencies, leading to a recommendation for the Decade to be proclaimed. It was understood that specific activities would not be considered, because there needed to be more indigenous peoples present before those issues could be discussed.

78. The following points were understood to form part of the recommendations:

(a) To hold regional consultations on the Decade;

(b) To improve coordination within the United Nations system over the next six months, with a view to establishing more operational programmes;

(c) To hold a meeting for the purpose of disseminating information concerning the rights of indigenous peoples who were in jeopardy, particularly those faced with military occupation;

(d) That there be clear information available to indigenous peoples about how to present proposals to international bodies such as UNDP;

(e) That appropriate texts for the dissemination of information should be prepared in indigenous languages, noting that such work has already been commenced by DPI;

(f) To consider the possibility of preparing ideas for the resolution to proclaim the Decade which would go before the General Assembly.

III. PROJECTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR

79. Under item 5, the Meeting considered the activities concerning the development of special projects for the year. Regarding this, indigenous representatives asked that UNDP and UNESCO in particular give attention to the development of projects in consultation with indigenous peoples.

80. The Meeting also considered the projects that had been submitted for funding under the Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/1993/AC.4/TM.3/CRP.3).

81. The secretariat gave an oral report, stating that the 229 projects received to date totalled over US$ 33 million, whilst there was less

than $300,000 in the Fund. It was noted that most of those countries that had responded had provided funds from their development programmes, and had requested that projects in developing nations be supported. As it would be possible to support only a very few small projects, other suitable projects would be referred to other agencies.

82. An indigenous representative from Asia commented on the importance of awareness and the need to change attitudes. Governments were urged to develop meaningful relationships with indigenous peoples, and to consult with them fully on matters affecting them. Related to this was the problem of ensuring that information about projects reached the community level.

83. Indigenous peoples in Asia had been reluctant to put forward proposals to the United Nations system, as they lacked confidence that there would be any response. It was also important to find out which United Nations agencies had supported indigenous projects and the extent of the funding provided to indigenous peoples.

84. There were additional comments about the lack of response from key agencies of the United Nations system and suggestions for the convening of another consultation between indigenous peoples and those agencies.

85. There was a general consensus on the part of government and indigenous representatives that the proclamation of a Decade, with adequate resources, was essential to advance the concerns of indigenous peoples. The representative of the Government of New Zealand stressed the need for coordination of the whole United Nations system. ILO agreed with the need for greater coordination and the need to appoint focal points within the agencies.

86. It was suggested that the Secretary-General of the United Nations might be requested to issue directives as to how such coordination might be advanced. In the meantime, it was suggested that the specialized agencies might have their governing bodies consider the issue. The representatives of Governments proposed that either ILO or UNDP might take a leading role in encouraging greater coordination.

87. One indigenous representative remarked that UNDP programmes were not available to indigenous peoples in developing countries, although those peoples were economically disadvantaged. Thus, many indigenous peoples were denied access to programmes. It was also noted that the World Bank was absent from the Meeting. It was felt that indigenous peoples would have benefited from the presence of the World Bank and an explanation of its programmes. Once again, the importance of statistical studies was raised.

88. The Chairperson recommended that the specialized agencies should consider their future policies in relation to indigenous peoples over the remaining six months of the Year.

89. The representative of the World Health Organization noted that the organization would wish to strengthen its links with the Centre for Human Rights. However, WHO was not a funding body, but could assist by helping to assess health needs and by providing technical advice.

90. The representative of an organization concerned with health issues raised a number of concerns about the need for special projects dealing specifically with indigenous health matters. This organization suggested that in the context of a Decade the Director General of WHO could appoint a panel of indigenous health professionals and persons versed in traditional medicine, as an advisory panel for the duration of the Decade and beyond.

91. It was also recommended that WHO should prepare annually a report on the health of indigenous peoples, to be submitted to the World Health Assembly and made public. Furthermore, the Director General of WHO was urged to designate members of a Centre on the Health of Indigenous Peoples, headed by an indigenous health professional.

92. As a matter of priority, a committee of indigenous peoples should be created to review and monitor all bio-medical studies and experiments that touched on their lives, including such studies as the human genome diversity project.

93. The representative of the Government of Denmark spoke of the need to raise funds imaginatively, and of the importance of ensuring the full involvement of indigenous peoples in the planning for the Decade. The questions of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples and of a separate indigenous peoples unit within the Centre for Human Rights were essential.

94. The representative of the Government of Brazil spoke of the importance of protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in that country, particularly in the context of the demarcation of indigenous territories.

95. Indigenous representatives agreed that projects which related to the protection of culture and to the protection of lands and territories were of utmost importance to indigenous peoples.

IV. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

96. Under agenda item 5, the representative of DPI reported more fully on the activities of the Department and provided the secretariat with a comprehensive report. DPI had been instrumental in the organization of the events associated with the opening of the Year in New York and in obtaining wide media coverage of the events. Press kits containing informational materials about indigenous peoples had been widely distributed, as had brochures and posters.

97. The map of the world showing where indigenous peoples lived had been withdrawn, following objections concerning its accuracy from some of the Asian Governments.

98. Under a special fellowship programme, 14 journalists from developing nations were funded to attend and cover the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. One of these journalists was a Kuna journalist from Panama.

99. DPI intended to mount an exhibition for the Year in the public lobby of the General Assembly building at Headquarters and additional feature articles were planned, one about Rigoberta Menchú as the United Nations Goodwill

Ambassador for the Year. A commemorative booklet of the speeches by indigenous leaders at the opening would be published. DPI was also funding the translation and printing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in indigenous languages. That project had commenced in Mexico and was being overseen by the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico.

100. The representative of the Haudenosaunee asked that the meeting note that all indigenous peoples were at risk in many ways. They were at risk by being removed from their lands. They risked loss of their lands, and were at risk of being assimilated by Government policies. The risk factor should be studied and determined. Because of those problems, indigenous peoples had developed their own networks for disseminating information.

101. It was agreed that more work needed to be done on studying how best to spread information amongst indigenous peoples. The dissemination of information had to be in the correct languages, it had to reach peoples on time, and often had to reach very remote areas. In fact, information policies had to be practical and workable.

102. There was considerable discussion on how best to disseminate information on ILO Convention No. 169. ILO had been promoting it at the regional and subregional levels, but there was a problem of inadequate resources. A lot more work needed to be done, particularly at the national level, and there was also a need to promote awareness of it within the United Nations.

V. PROJECT GUIDELINES, FINANCIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE YEAR AND COORDINATION

103. In the discussion under agenda item 6, concern was expressed about the lack of funding generally for indigenous peoples programmes. This pointed to a need to educate Governments and other possible donors about the needs of indigenous peoples. It was suggested that there was a need for more statistical data, so that funding bodies had more information on which to make decisions. Governments were urged to continue contributing. It was also suggested that many existing programmes in the United Nations system could be expanded to include indigenous peoples programmes, and to provide funding from within existing resources. Such proposals should be taken to the governing bodies of the agencies concerned.

104. The idea of referring projects to other agencies in the United Nations system was widely supported, and the Coordinator of the Year should encourage other agencies to react. It was suggested that a list of organizations outside the United Nations system that might be able to assist should be drawn up.

105. One Government representative noted that whilst certain Governments had made substantial contributions to the Year, it had not been possible for others to do so because of economic constraints and the need to deal with domestic situations. However, it was important to acknowledge and thank those Governments which had been able to make contributions, and to urge further contributions.

106. It was considered essential that clear information about the way projects should be presented and about the agencies' programmes should be readily

available to indigenous peoples. Also, aid programmes should understand the special needs of indigenous peoples and should be sensitive to the promotion and protection of their cultures. It was also mentioned that in some countries freedom of speech was limited, so indigenous peoples depended on their own networks to disseminate information.

107. The Chairperson summarized the discussion under item 6, in which she reiterated that one year had not been sufficient time to pin-point all the problems, and to find solutions and responses to them. A major problem had been the lack of funds, and it was necessary to find ways and means of accessing more funds. She agreed that United Nations agencies must incorporate indigenous programmes into their regular budgetary processes on a permanent basis. It was important to provide a full report to Governments on the state of the Voluntary Fund for the Year.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

108. During the discussion on item 7, the need to disseminate information was stressed, as was the need for more statistical information about indigenous peoples to assist funding bodies in planning programmes for them.

109. The need for the evaluation meeting was seen as essential, and the representative of the Government of Canada encouraged participants to consider holding it either before or after the 1994 session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, to take advantage of the number of indigenous peoples who would be present in Geneva at that time. The Canadian contribution to that meeting was intended to assist delegates from developing countries to attend. It was envisaged that planning for the Decade would be addressed at that meeting.

110. The following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

The Technical Meeting:

1. Reaffirms that the aims of the International Year are to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in the areas, among others, of human rights, the environment, development, education and health;

2. Reaffirms that the International Year is based upon the theme of "A New Partnership" and that indigenous people should be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects affecting them;

3. Reaffirms that the United Nations system as a whole should look for ways and means of enhancing its operational programmes and technical assistance to indigenous people so that improvements can be achieved in 1993 and beyond;

4. Expresses appreciation to those Governments, United Nations organizations, non-governmental and indigenous people's organizations and indigenous people who are supporting the International Year in practical ways at the national and international levels;

5. Notes with regret that many Governments, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations have not supported local or national initiatives or contributed to the success of the International Year;

6. Also notes with regret that many indigenous people in the world are not informed about the International Year;

7. Expresses concern that the Technical Meeting was not well attended by Governments, United Nations organizations and indigenous representatives;

8. Acknowledges that the International Year has helped to increase public awareness of the plight of indigenous people and believes that the problems faced by indigenous people continue to require attention;

Coordination within the United Nations system

9. Expresses its appreciation to the Coordinator of the International Year and to the secretariat of indigenous administrators established to assist him for the work undertaken to date;

10. Requests a strengthening of the infrastructure such as adequate office space, telefax and other essential equipment to assist the secretariat for the International Year to carry out its tasks;

11. Underlines the importance of continuing and effective mechanisms of communication between the Coordinator and the secretariat and United Nations organizations and specialized agencies;

12. Urges the Coordinator to convey to relevant United Nations organizations and agencies without delay proposals for the International Year which have not been funded from the Voluntary Fund and which would fall within the competence of those agencies;

13. Requests the Coordinator to write to all executive heads of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, as well as regional bodies, to urge them to appoint focal points for indigenous people, in cooperation with indigenous organizations, to develop special programmes and support projects of indigenous peoples in their areas of competence, if they have not done so;

14. Also requests the Coordinator in his letter to encourage United Nations organizations and agencies to examine carefully the extent to which project proposals might be funded from within existing programmes and resources and at the same time to examine, in consultation with indigenous peoples, how existing programmes might be utilised or extended to take particular account of the needs and aspirations of indigenous people;

15. Further requests the Coordinator in his letter to request information about possible grants or technical assistance that might be available to indigenous people, including guidelines for applying for them, so that he can circulate this information to all indigenous peoples' organizations;

16. Recommends that the Coordinator organize the evaluation meeting referred to in General Assembly resolution 46/128 following consultation with the interested parties;

17. Requests that the Coordinator write to all Governments to inform them of the results of the Technical Meeting and, in particular, to draw their attention to the need for action at the governing bodies of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies in order to coordinate international cooperation for the purpose of enhancing the situation of indigenous people;

Health

18. Recommends that the Director-General of the World Health Organization appoint a focal point for indigenous people's health issues;

19. Recommends that the Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and its identified focal point, using existing resources and the Voluntary Fund for the International Year, convene in Geneva before the end of the International Year a meeting of indigenous persons versed in traditional medicines and indigenous health professionals to advise on their health status and health plans for the following decade. The report of the meeting should be made available to the 1994 World Health Assembly;

Dissemination of information

20. Recommends that the Coordinator send appropriate written information about international instruments and human rights procedures to all indigenous people;

21. Recommends that the Coordinator contact the United Nations regional commissions and the Governments concerned to explore ways and means by which information on human rights and the International Year can reach indigenous people, especially those most vulnerable, and that the Coordinator, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, explore how appropriate human rights material can be prepared in indigenous languages;

Decade

In the context of building on the work of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, the reconvened Technical Meeting, drawing on experiences gained in the course of the first part of the International Year:

22. Notes with concern that the objectives of the Year have not so far been fully achieved, due to inadequate time, resources and planning, and notes that the full realization of the objectives of the Year requires a longer period than one year;

23. Notes with satisfaction and supports the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that the General Assembly proclaim an international decade of the world's indigenous people and that within the framework of the decade consideration be given to the establishment of a permanent forum within

the United Nations system to address indigenous issues, and emphasises the need for the decade to be adequately funded and planned and for all aspects of the decade to be elaborated in partnership with indigenous people;

24. Invites the General Assembly to take action on this recommendation as a matter of urgency at its forty-eighth session;

The Meeting, drawing again on experiences gained in the course of the first part of the International Year:

25. Emphasizes that in declaring a decade of the world's indigenous people consideration should given to;

(a) The need for committed and sustained international regional and national efforts to ensure its success;

(b) The need for planning and implementation of all aspects of the decade, including its action-oriented programmes, to be elaborated in partnership with indigenous people;

(c) The importance of concerted, system-wide action by the United Nations, including the specialized agencies and other bodies, in implementing the decade and, in this regard, the development of an inter-agency mechanism for high-level coordination; the establishment of viable focal points within United Nations organizations and specialized agencies; the need for the governing bodies of the United Nations organizations to be called upon to prepare specific programmes for the implementation of the decade and the need for the preparation of data on indigenous people;

(d) The necessity for adequate resources for the decade and, in particular, that adequate resources are made available to enable indigenous people to participate in both the preparatory and implementation phases of the decade, and that the secretariat of the decade be adequately funded to enable it to facilitate both preparations and implementation of the decade;

(e) The importance of building into the planning for the international decade those aspects of the action plan of the International Year which constitute "unfinished business", such as the international trade fair. Such activities are critically important for the promotion of networks of exchange;

(f) Exploring the desirability of regional consultations with indigenous people concerning preparations for the decade;

26. Recommends that the principles which guide the United Nations and its activities during the international decade should be drawn from the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments;

Financial provisions

27. Welcomes the contribution made by Governments to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year, and calls on all Governments, in particular those which have not yet made such contributions, to consider doing so as a matter of urgency;

28. Recommends that a report be sent to Governments on what funds have been received and how they have been used in order to encourage further contributions;

29. Recommends that Governments, as a way of supporting the International Year, consider providing direct financial assistance for projects and activities of indigenous people, in particular in developing countries. For this purpose, Governments should consider changing their infrastructure to enable them to assist and support indigenous people in a flexible manner.